

SUFFERERS FROM FIRE AT NEW BERN, N. C., IN
DECEMBER, 1923

FEBRUARY 12, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. McSWAIN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted
the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 12029]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 12039) for the relief of sufferers from the fire at New Bern, N. C., in December, 1922, having considered the same, report thereon favorably with the recommendation that it do pass.

The War Department furnished assistance to the sufferers from this fire and in doing so expended certain stores amounting in value to \$10,546.56, and disbursed \$29.02 in money from the 1923 appropriations.

The purpose of the legislation is to give congressional approval to the action of the War Department and to relieve the accounting officers for the property and money so expended.

The letter of the Secretary of War to the Speaker of the House relative to the matter of relief for both the sufferers from the fire at New Bern, N. C., and the sufferers from cyclone in northwestern Mississippi is made a part of this report. The relief for the sufferers from the fire at New Bern, N. C., is carried in this measure, while the relief for the sufferers from cyclone in northwestern Mississippi is carried in H. R. 12030, which has been also reported favorably by your committee.

The letter of the Secretary of War is as follows:

JANUARY 26, 1925.

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: The War Department was requested to furnish assistance for the relief of sufferers from a fire at New Bern, N. C., about December 2, 1922. The commanding general, Fourth Corps Area, under directions from the War Department rendered the assistance requested and in so doing expended supplies and funds amounting to \$10,575.58. As a result of a cyclone disaster in northwestern Mississippi on or about March 16, 1923, the War Department extended relief to

sufferers in response to urgent requests for aid, and there was expended in this relief work supplies valued at \$4,582.33. In view of the fact that these were emergencies and it was not possible to obtain legislative authority before undertaking the relief work, and in order that the actions of the War Department may be validated, the following draft of legislation is recommended:

"The action of the War Department in directing the issue, and the issuance, of quartermaster stores out of the reserve stores for the field service of the Army, of a value not exceeding \$10,546.56, and in directing the expenditure of \$11.74 from 'Signal Service of the Army, 1923,' and of \$17.28 from 'Army transportation, 1923,' for the relief of sufferers from the fire at New Bern, N. C., in December, 1922, is approved, and credit for all such supplies so issued and funds so disbursed shall be allowed in the settlement of the accounts of the officers of the Army.

"The action of the War Department in directing the issue, and the issuance, of quartermaster stores out of the reserve stores for the field service of the Army, of a value not exceeding \$4,582.33, for the relief of sufferers from cyclone in northwestern Mississippi, in March, 1923, is approved, and credit for all such supplies so issued shall be allowed in the settlement of the accounts of the officers of the Army."

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has been consulted and states that the proposed legislation is not in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN W. WEEKS,
Secretary of War.